Healy Says Thanks!

Sitting in the chapel, not knowing of what was going to happen, the seniors of the fall sports team, along with their coaches anxiously awaited the arrival of Mr. Healy who requested their presence on Monday September 12, 2011. When the meeting started, Mr. Healy began with an opening prayer and began to discuss why he had planned this meeting and dinner.

He started off thanking the student athletes for being good role models, for providing leadership, and for representing Catholic. He said past athletes were not always role models and he asked current athletes to be counter cultural and do out with the bad traditions and start with new traditions. At the meeting, the students were given a gift of a jump drive to coincide with Father Arnesbarger’s message of creating and preserving memories.

When questioned on why he held the meeting, Mr. Healy said “I was frustrated with past leadership and wanted to make it better. I’ve noticed how much the profanity has gone and that there is quiet leadership. I also wanted to let the other fall programs know that they matter and that I don’t just care about football”

Mr. Healy said he wants to start a new tradition where he meets with every season sport team and possibly their parents to instill this message, to let them know they matter to this school and to tell them that they represent the Catholic community.

A dinner was served after the meeting and the students were provided their jump drives.

For a student’s perspective on this fall athlete meeting, Carolyn Bahar, a senior on the dance team contributed her thoughts. She said, “I think that he was going to talk about being an example and I guess that’s what it was about; but because it was during a weekday, it took away part of its impact. Also it was not mandatory”

Of the fall sports programs, the football team had the most attendance. Other fall sports teams that were present included the men’s soccer team, women’s volleyball, women’s golf, cross country, women’s tennis, cheer, and dance. Although all teams were represented, attendance for some was light. “If it really means that much to the school, they should try to make it where everyone is able to attend”, Carolyn Bahar said.

Although the next meeting will likely have more athletes in attendance, this meeting did have an impact on the athletes. To confirm this, Coach Kevin Christmas provided his insights of the impact of the meeting.

As athletic director, Kevin Christmas works with all fall sports team athletes and he has full confidence in Mr. Healy’s message at the meeting. He works with every single sport even if he is an assistant coach to both the JV and Varsity football. When asked if he thinks that the message of the meeting will be taken to heart by the athletes, he said “I do. I think that they will be good role models and good leaders that are leading by example”

Statements from Mr. Healy, student attendees, and coach Christmas indicate that this meeting was valuable and that it will likely become a new tradition at Charlotte Catholic.